

Amrita Newsletter

Spring 2007

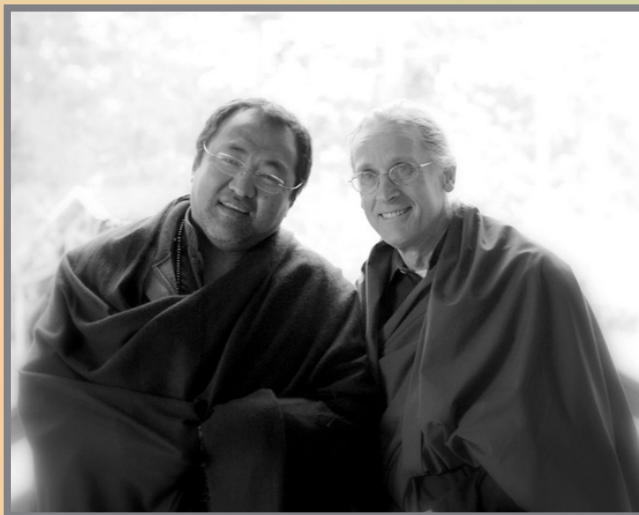
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Welcome to the Amrita Newsletter for sangha and other supporters. Lama Padma and Susan have left for Chokdrup Ling, the retreat land in Colorado. Meanwhile, back at the ranch at Amrita, practice and activity continues.

Drupchen 2007 - Once again, the beauty of Orcas Island provided the perfect oasis for our annual Chenrezig Drupchen. Vajra Master Jigme Rinpoche led the Drupchen and we were fortunate to have young Tulku Max join us for the first time. Many thanks to everyone's efforts before, during and after the Drupchen - including our



words). For example, some sangha members are eager to create our own set of dance costumes. We'll sew the costumes that we are able to make and eventually commission the rest.

John Swearingen has generously uploaded many 2007 Drupchen photos. He has suggested that people who enjoyed or downloaded images make a contribution to Amrita. This will go into our general fund for Dharma activities.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All Sangha Meeting

May 6th, 4:00PM to 6:00PM
(followed by Potluck)

Red Tara Tsok

May 12th at 7:00PM

Guru Rinpoche Tsok

May 26th at 7:00PM

Saga Dawa Duchen

May 31st

RED TARA RETREAT:

June 15 - 17

NGONDRO WEEKEND:

August 17 - 19

NAMKHA DRIMED

RINPOCHE VISIT:

October 1 - 3

CHENREZIG RETREAT:

November 30 - December 2

(Dates subject to impermanence)

extended "family" out at Orcas Island (Sharon, Sally, etc.). Every single contribution made by retreatants and non-retreatants is extremely valuable. Whether you were a driver, a donor, a shopper, a packer, a cleaner, a wood collector, a cook, an unloader, or a flower arranger, every contribution brings huge merit. We are already in the throes of organizing the NEXT Drupchen, so you can immediately begin your merit-making machine (to use Chagdud Rinpoche's

Namkha Drimed Rinpoche in Seattle - In early October it is our extreme good fortune to host this major visit by His Eminence Tertön Namkha Drimed Rinpoche,



one of the most esteemed masters of the Nyingma lineage. Rinpoche is noted for his "extraordinary power of realization, direct flow of blessings, authentic presence and legendary patience that continue to touch and transform sentient beings." Lama Padma has requested that Rinpoche bestow the empowerments of Gesar and

Yeshe Tsogyal. If you can volunteer any time to assist with organization, cooking or lama care for Rinpoche and his entourage, it would be very welcome. We will send you more precise information about Rinpoche's visit when it comes to hand.

Inside this issue:

- Red Tara Retreat
- Tromge School
- Amrita recordings
- Buddhafest

... and more!

Drupchen (continued) - John's photo website is:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/dharmaphotos>



Alternatively, you can order John's photos and slideshow on a CD from our Bookstore. Those of you who were at the Drupchen, you can buy an MP3 disc recording of Rinpoche's teaching to keep you inspired. Choice lama photos printed at high resolution will also be available.

Directly after the Drupchen we were delighted to have Lama Thubten and his wife Pamela join us for Monday practice. Remember, every **Monday night** we have a practice evening that is open to the public. Newcomers are most welcome to join this session.



Red Tara Retreat: June 15-17 - This will be Lama Padma's only teaching and retreat time with us before he heads off on pilgrimage. Lama Padma will be teaching on the concise Red Tara practice so the retreat is open to everybody and does not require an empowerment.

Audio Recordings – keep up your study!

The **Amrita Archive** contains a selection of practice recitations, teachings, and photos. These items are selectively available, depending on your practice commitments. In general, if you were present at a teaching, you are eligible to purchase the recording of that teaching.

Listening to these **recorded teachings** is a great way to maintain your practice, and to continue study:

The Four Reflections That Turn the Mind by Lama Padma (MP3 disc - available to all)

The Four Immeasurables by Lama Padma (MP3 disc - available to all)

Carrying Happiness & Suffering Onto Your Spiritual Path by LP (MP3 disc - available to those attended)

Drupchen 2006 (Photo slideshow – available to participants)

Drupchen 2007 (Photo slideshow – available to participants)

Guru Yoga by Lama Tsering (Audio CD - available to those who attended the Guru Rinpoche tsok August 4th, 2006)

For purchases, see Mary.

Tromge Children's School Fund - This summer, Lama Padma and others will go to Tibet on pilgrimage. They will visit many of the same people and places



Some students at the school

mentioned in Chagdud Rinpoche's autobiography, *Lord of the Dance*. Tromge Gonpa is Chagdud Rinpoche's "family" monastery. About a year ago the Tromge Nomad Community offered the monastery a building for use as a school. About two dozen young students are now receiving a traditional dharma education. The structure was previously used as a chicken coop and



The school building

improvements are needed to make it more comfortable (especially during a Tibetan winter!). Lama Padma is very eager that we support this extremely beneficial project. More details will soon be available to you. The Amrita homepage has a banner that links to more information and photos about this project, and how you can contribute. Go to:

<http://amritaseattle.org>

Madhyamika Part 2 - Heartened by our Yukon dharma siblings enthusiastic report about the huge reception to Khentrol Lodrö T'haye Rinpoche's recent visit there, we remind you that his Madhyamika teachings Part 2 will take place in Seattle over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend January 19-21, 2008. Originally compiled by Aryadeva, these exceptional and precious teachings are a step-by-step philosophical study on the nature of emptiness. Khentrol's presentation is not only detailed, but lightened by his sense of humor and delight in teaching us. There are commitments with this teaching, and it is obligatory to have attended Part 1. If not, you must be committed to listening to the MP3 disc of Part 1, which is available for \$10.



upkeep of Bodhi house, and whatever time you can offer - whether cleaning or gardening - is deeply appreciated. There is a cleaning schedule posted in the cleaning cupboard at Bodhi House so you know what has (and has not) been done.

Gardening - Speaking of gardening, calling all green thumbs! Now that Springtime is gracing Seattle, Amrita's garden is always in need of attention. The wish has been expressed for a cutting garden to supply our shrine with flowers. Any initiative in weeding or planting is appreciated and we are very grateful to all the mystery gnomes who have been doing this to date. Bruce supervises all garden work and would be very happy for any help you can offer. Or maybe we can gather for a garden "work party"?



Buddhafest & Prison Project - Lama Padma considers the prison project to be one of the most important activities provided by Amrita. Currently, our inmate dharma brothers at the Monroe Correctional Complex are preparing Buddhafests for July 8, 15 and 22 July (each Buddhafest is at a different unit). This is a once-a-year event for them and they look forward to it with great excitement. Gathering with fellow sangha from the outside is not only a rarity for them, but a profound encouragement. For the prisoners who don't yet practice, the impact of a visit from the outside is considerable.

Everyone is invited!!! Try to attend at least one of the Buddhafests. Please get in touch with Bruce soon as the papers for security clearance need to be submitted by mid-June.



Your contact details - Have you changed your e-mail or address? Please remember to inform our office so we can keep our records updated. If you have any questions whatsoever, please phone or e-mail our office.



View from Orcas Island

If you enjoyed this newsletter, perhaps you would like to contribute to the next issue?

❖ *May all beings be happy* ❖

Photo credits: John Swearingen, Emmanuel Go, Caterina De Re and Lon.

Thanks to Cyd for proofreading, and to Lori, Mary and Chris for feedback.

Note: The compiler of this newsletter apologizes for any unintentional omissions or incorrect inclusions or other mistakes.



Bodhi House - As always this urban retreat house (right next door to Amrita) is available for your personal retreat. In addition to the local sangha, people from as far as northern Canada have come to avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity. Help is always needed for the



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